

Application No. 10/600,619
Amendment dated April 19, 2007
Reply to Office Action of January 19, 2007

APR 19 2007

Docket No.: 0941-0761P

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A layered proton exchange membrane, comprising:

an organic/inorganic composite membrane, comprising inorganic proton conductor and organic base polymer; and

at least one proton exchange organic membrane consisting of an organic component;

wherein the organic base polymer and the base material of the proton exchange organic membrane are poly(vinylidene fluoride)-grafted-sulfonated-polystyrene (PVDF-g-SPS), PVDF-g-sulfonated-poly(N-vinylcarbazole), PVDF-g-poly(vinylphosphonic acid), PVDF-g-poly-(4-vinylbenzoic acid), PVDF-g-Sulfonated-poly(2-vinylnaphthalene), or PVDF-g-Sulfonated-poly(9-vinyl- anthracene).

2. (Original) The layered proton exchange membrane as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inorganic proton conductor is $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+\beta$ -alumina, $\text{Sb}_2\text{O}_5 \cdot 5.4\text{H}_2\text{O}$, H-modenite, heteropoly acid, zeolite, zirconium phosphate, silicon oxide, titanium oxide, tungsten acid, sulfated zirconia, sulfated alumina, sulfated titanium oxide or sulfated titanium-aluminum oxide.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The layered proton exchange membrane as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organic base polymer and base material of the proton exchange organic membrane are polymers with cationic ion exchange groups.

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5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The layered proton exchange membrane as claimed in claim [[5]] 4, wherein the cationic ion exchange groups are sulfonate, carboxylate, phosphonate, imide, sulfonimide or sulfonamide.

7. (Original) The layered proton exchange membrane as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organic base polymer further comprises fluorine-containing resin to form the organic/inorganic composite membrane.

8. (Original) The layered proton exchange membrane as claimed in claim 7, wherein the fluorine-containing resin is poly(vinylidene fluoride), poly(vinylidene fluoride/ hexafluoropropylene) copolymer, poly(vinylidene fluoride/ chlorotrifluoroethylene)copolymer, poly(vinylidene-fluoride/hexafluoropropylene/tetrafluoroethylene) tripolymer or poly (chlorotrifluoro ethylene).

9. (Original) The layered proton exchange membrane as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organic base polymer further comprises non fluorine-containing resin to form the organic/inorganic composite membrane.

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10. (Original) The layered proton exchange membrane as claimed in claim 9, wherein the non fluorine-containing resin is polyacrylate, polyester, polycetherketone, polysulfone, polyether, polyamide, polyphenylene oxide or polyethylene oxide.

11. (Original) The layered proton exchange membrane as claimed in claim 1, wherein the methanol permeability of the organic/inorganic composite membrane is less than 10^{-7} cm²/s.

12. (Original) The layered proton exchange membrane as claimed in claim 1, wherein the proton conductivity of the organic/organic composite membrane is at least 10^{-4} S/cm.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a layered proton exchange membrane, comprising of:

(a) forming an organic/inorganic composite membrane by doping inorganic proton conductor in organic base polymer; and

(b) combining the organic/inorganic complex membrane and a proton exchange organic membrane consisting of an organic component to form a layered proton exchange membrane;

wherein the organic base polymer and the organic component are poly(vinylidene fluoride)-grafted-sulfonated-polystyrene (PVDF-g-SPS), PVDF-g-sulfonated-poly(N-vinylcarbazole), PVDF-g-poly(vinylphosphonic acid), PVDF-g-poly-(4-vinylbenzoic acid), PVDF-g-Sulfonated-poly(2-vinylnaphthalene), or PVDF-g-Sulfonated-poly(9-vinyl-anthracene).

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14. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the step (a) is performed by physical blending, chemical cross-linking, UV radiation cross-linking or sol-gel.

15. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the step (b) is performed by thermal pressing, chemical cross-linking or UV radiation cross-linking.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the number of the proton exchange organic membrane is at least one and the organic/inorganic composite membrane is located on one side of the layered proton exchange organic membrane.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein step (b) further comprises combining an adhesive film between the organic/inorganic composite membrane and the proton exchange organic membrane.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising introducing cationic ion exchange groups into the layered proton exchange organic membrane.

19. (Currently Amended) A direct liquid-feed methanol fuel cell, comprising:

a cathode;

an anode; and

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a layered proton exchange membrane, formed by lamination of an organic/inorganic composite membrane with at least one proton exchange organic membrane;

wherein the organic/inorganic composite membrane comprises organic base polymer and inorganic proton conductor; and

the proton exchange organic membrane consists of an

organic component;

wherein the organic base polymer and the organic component are poly(vinylidene fluoride)-grafted-sulfonated-polystyrene (PVDF-g-SPS), PVDF-g-sulfonated-poly(N-vinylcarbazole), PVDF-g-poly(vinylphosphonic acid), PVDF-g-poly-(4-vinylbenzoic acid), PVDF-g-Sulfonated-poly(2-vinylnaphthalene), or PVDF-g-Sulfonated-poly(9-vinyl-anthracene).

20. (Original) The direct methanol fuel cell as claimed in claim 19, wherein the methanol permeability of the organic/inorganic composite membrane is less than 10^{-7} cm²/s.

21. (Original) The direct methanol fuel cell as claimed in claim 19, wherein the proton conductivity of the organic/inorganic composite membrane is at least 10^{-4} S/cm.